¶ By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for ſuppreſſing inſolent abuſes committed by baſe people againſt perſons of qualitie, aſwell Strangers as others, in the Streetes of the Citie and Suburbes of London, with the parts adiacent.

AS We haue euer eſteemed it a happineſſe to meete with any occaſion, that might iuſtly mooue Us to take notice of the carefull and diſcreete Gouernment of ſuch as were truſted in high places of Authoritie and Magiſtracie vnder Us, In which caſes (as the World can well beare Us witneſſe) wee haue euer been ready to expreſſe the gladneſſe of Our heart, by Our gracious thankfulnes vnto them in one kinde or other: So on the other ſide, doe wee hold it as neceſſary a duety belonging vnto Us, to whom God hath committed the chiefe and ſouereigne care of all, not onely ſharpely to reproue where we find ſupine and vnexcuſable negligence, but when through improuidence, and Weakneſſe of Gouernment, the miſchiefe growes ſtrong and pernicious, to take the Reformation into our owne ſupreame power, vnleſſe otherwiſe wee find a ſpeedy amendment. Our Citie of London, the Prime and chiefe Citie of all others Within Our Realmes and Dominions, the place that wee, and Our Predeceſſors in this Kingdome, haue alwayes thought Worthieſt to be honoured with the Reſidence of our Perſons, and of Our ſupreame Courts of Juſtice, and Which Our Selfe in particular haue euer ſince Our comming vnto the Crowne, fauoured and cheriſhed by all the meanes wee might, to teſtifie Our Princely and extraordinary affection towards them, whereof wee

shall neuer repent Vs, hauing found in them a like retribution of Loue and duety towards Vs; Yet must Wee needes say, to Our griefe, that in so famous a City as that is, and wherein of all others, if any where, ciuility and humanity is to be expected, there is as iust cause at this time to charge their chiefe Magistrates for negligent suffering, as to condemne the inferiour and baser sort of people for acting many Insolencies of rude & sauage barbarisme, which dayly are committed in the Streets, not only towards Ambassadours and publike Ministers of forreigne Princes and States, whose persons ought to bee sacred and priuiledged, by the Lawes of God and Nations, from all violence or wrong, but euen towards other Strangers also, to whom all courteous respect and hospitality is due, and generally to the whole Nobility and Gentry of our own Realmes, both men and women, hauing occasion at any time to abide, or repaire vnto this City, insomuch as the Complaints hereof doe continually come vnto Our eares, and make Vs ashamed, that notwithstanding the often and straight Commandements that We haue layd heretofore vpon the Lord Maior & Aldermen, for suppressing this wicked and deuilish humor of those base people by seuerity of Iustice & punishment, the same doth neuertheless continue more and more in a higher degree, to the great scandall of Our Gouernment, both at home and abroad, and to the dishonour of our Nation. Being therefore resolued to endure these Insolencies no longer, Wee haue now thought fit to declare vnto the world the true sence and feeling Wee haue of Our owne Honour, which cannot but suffer much, if by Our longer sufferance the subordinate Magistrates & Gouernours, to whom the ordinary Reformation of these Abuses doth appertaine, neglect their dueties; And doe for that cause hereby straightly charge and command the Maior and Aldermen of our sayd Citie of London, as they will answere the same hereafter vnto Vs, vpon paine of Our highest displeasure, and such further perill as may ensue thereupon, that they doe presently enter into some serious consultation and conference amongst themselues, how these Affronts to Strangers, and others Our owne Subiects may be carefully preuented hereafter, that no such lewd person shall dare, either by word or deede, to offer any iniury or violence, directly or indirectly, or so much as, by his gesture or countenance, to scoffe at, or abuse any Stranger, especially Ambassadours and publike Ministers, their Seruants and Followers, or other Noble-men and Gentlemen, Ladies or Gentlewomen, Our owne Subiects or others, but to behaue themselues towards them with all respect and courtesie, meeting them in the Streetes or elsewhere soeuer.

And although wee hold it not so proper for vs to prescribe a particular way vnto the sayde Maior and Aldermen, how this may be effected with that good successe, which wee may well expect, if they be vigilant & diligent, as becomes them, who should best vnderstand the meanes how to deale with those inferiour members of their owne Bodie; yet hereof let them be assured, that if it fall out any such abuses be committed againe, & come to Our knowledge, We will not only exact a strict account of the same from the whole Citie, but euen from that particular Alderman in whose ward it shal happen to be done, & he not punish it according to the fault; who if hee performe his duty in time, by admonishing all housholders and other within his ward, to be watchful ouer such offences when they happen, needes not to pleade ignorance of the fact, nor in this case will We take it for a sufficient excuse: As, on the other side, We doe hereby also expressly & straightly charge and commaund all Housholders, Citizens, and Inhabitants within Our said City, not onely themselues to abstaine from all such violences and iniuries, as before are mentioned, but in case any rude and audacious person shal, notwithstanding so many warnings giuen heretofore, and examples of Iustice lately executed vpon some, presume neuertheless to commit the like offence againe; That then they doe with their vttermost power and endeauour apprehend such Offendor or Offendors, if the Constable or immediate Officer be not at that instant present, or at hand, and if hee bee, then to assist him the best they may, for putting the sayde Offendors into the hands of Iustice: And this vpon perill of Our high indignation, and of such seuere punishment, as may be inflicted vpon any person that shal looke on, and bee knowne through his wilfull negligence to suffer the Malefactor to escape, now that We haue declared Our Royall pleasure so expressly on that behalfe. And as We haue hitherto applied this charge particularly vnto the City of London and the Liberties thereof,

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becaule there theſe inſolencies haue beene for the moſt part committed, for any thing Wee haue heard: Yet leaſt the ſame boldneſſe and impudencie may ſpread to the other parts and ſkirts bordering vpon the City, or the Countries adioyning thereunto, where the worſer ſort of people may be alike corrupted by example of thoſe others within the City: Wee doe heereby impoſe the like ſtrict charge and commandment vpon all Juſtices of Peace, Sheriffes, Conſtables, and other Our Officers; As alſo vpon all Lords of Leetes and Liberties, and other Inhabitants whatſoeuer, within the neighbouring parts of the Counties of Middleſex and Surrey, neere vnto the City of London, that they take the like care preſently within their ſeuerall Juriſdictions and places of authority, or habitation reſpectiuely, to containe the people within the bounds of their duty towards Vs, and of reſpect and ciuility vnto all ſuch perſons and Strangers eſpecially, as are before mentioned, and haue heeretofore had iuſt cauſe to bee grieued at ſuch barbarous vſage, as they will anſwere for their neglect and want of due care on that behalfe, if any complaint come vnto Vs of that nature heereafter.

Giuen at Our Palace of Weſtminſter the eighth day of April, in the nineteenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God ſaue the King.

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